Musculoskeletal CT examination
Cervical spine, thoracic spine, lumbar spine, pelvis, limbs or joints

Your doctor has referred you for a CT examination. The treating unit will inform you of the time and place of the examination.

Please reserve 60 minutes for the examination. The actual examination takes approximately 15 minutes, but in some cases, emergency examinations cause changes to the examination schedule.

Preparation for examination

- If lying still is painful for you, please take pain medication.
- You are allowed to eat and drink prior to the scan.
- Take your routine medication according to your physician’s instructions.

If you are hypersensitive to iodine-bearing contrast medium or you are/suspect you might be pregnant, please inform of this to the treating doctor or radiographer before the procedure.

Examination

X-ray computed tomography (CT) forms cross-sectional images of the targeted area using x-rays. The procedure is painless. During the examination, you need to lie still as motion causes image distortion. The radiographer will be able to talk to you, hear and see you during the scan.

When needed, iodinated contrast medium is administered intravenously through an IV catheter on the hand or elbow. The contrast agent improves the visibility of blood vessels and different tissues. The contrast medium may cause a momentary sensation of warmth and sometimes metallic taste in the mouth. The contrast medium will excrete through the urine.

After the examination

The doctor in charge of your care will inform you of the results of the examination. If you have not already been booked for an appointment or for a phone consultation, please contact the unit treating you in order to obtain the results.

Other things to note

Please take your health insurance card (Kela card) or identity card with you.

A separate fee will be charged for missed examinations which have not been cancelled beforehand.